

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 561

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieber

February 18, 2003

An act to amend Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code, relating to timber harvest.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 561, as introduced, Lieber. Timber harvest: conservation.

The Z'berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 declares an intent to insure a cover of trees of commercial species is maintained or established after timber operations. The act defines minimum acceptable tree stocking for an area covered by a timber harvesting plan and requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt standards for each forest district that are equal to or stricter than the minimum standards.

This bill would add to the minimum standards for acceptable stocking an area that reflects a preharvest balance between hardwoods and conifers.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 4561 of the Public Resources Code is
2 amended to read:
3 4561. It is the purpose of this section to set forth resource
4 conservation standards for timber operations, and to insure that a
5 cover of trees of commercial species, sufficient to utilize

adequately the suitable and available growing space, is maintained or established after timber operations.

~~To that end, the~~

(a) The following resource conservation standards define minimum acceptable stocking, and an area covered by a timber harvesting plan shall be classified as acceptably stocked if ~~either~~ one of the following conditions exist within five years after completion of timber operations:

~~(a)~~

(1) The area contains an average point count of 300 per acre, except ~~that~~ in areas ~~which~~ *that* the registered professional forester who prepares the timber harvesting plan has determined are site IV classification or lower. *In those areas*, the minimum average point count shall be 150 per acre. Point count shall be computed as follows:

~~(1)~~

(A) Each countable tree ~~which~~ *that* is not more than four inches in diameter at breast height to count as one.

~~(2)~~

(B) Each countable tree over four inches and not more than 12 inches in diameter at breast height to count as three.

~~(3)~~

(C) Each countable tree over 12 inches in diameter at breast height to count as six.

~~(b)~~

(2) The average residual basal area, measured in stems one inch or larger in diameter is at least 85 square feet per acre, except ~~that~~ in areas ~~which~~ *that* the registered professional forester who prepares the timber harvesting plan has determined are site II classification or lower. *In those areas*, the minimum average residual basal area shall be 50 square feet per acre.

(3) *The area reflects a preharvest balance between hardwoods and conifers after harvest.*

(b) The board, on a finding that it is in furtherance of the purposes of this chapter may encourage selection, shelterwood, or other types of management of timber where consistent with the biological requirements of the tree species and may regulate the size and shape of areas in which even-age management of timber is utilized.

1 (c) Timberland harvested between January 1, 1974, and the
2 adoption of stocking standards pursuant to this chapter shall be
3 classified as adequately stocked if, as a result of stocking ~~which~~
4 that has taken place subsequent to ~~such~~ harvest, the minimum
5 standards specified in this section are met.

6 (d) Rock outcroppings and other areas not normally bearing
7 timber ~~shall~~ may not be considered as requiring stocking and are
8 exempt from ~~such~~ stocking provisions.

